

Exodus 34:1-8 - Thursday, June 25th, 2009

- Before we start our study of Exodus 34, we sort of need to take something with us from the previous chapter to better understand it.
- Moses has just, in a way, begged God to show him His glory. God already speaks "face to face" with Moses, isn't that enough for him?
- Actually no it's not! Moses can't get enough of God in his seemingly insatiable quest for His presence, His glory, and His goodness.

- It's important that we understand that we will never be satisfied in our quest for more of God in our worship of God this side of heaven.
- Allow me to take it a step further; "it's by God's design that we both won't and can't be satisfied in our worship of God here on earth."
- It's almost as if this holy dissatisfaction in our worship of God here on earth is designed to point us to when we're there in heaven.

Psalm 17:15 And I—in righteousness I will see your face; when I awake, I will be satisfied with seeing your likeness. NIV

The story is told of Fanny Crosby, the famous hymn writer who's given us some 8,000 Gospel songs. At six weeks she became blind after a minor cold in her eyes. The family physician was gone, and another man came and treated her with a mustard poultice on the eyes, permanently destroying her sight. Instead of entering into litigation and a malpractice suit, as many would do today, her mother and grandmother (father died before her first birthday) chose instead to focus on teaching and helping Fanny to learn to know and love the Lord, so that she would have spiritual insight. Later in life, Fanny wrote:

Oh, what a happy soul am I,
Although I cannot see,
I am resolved that in this world
Contented I will be.
How many blessings I enjoy
That other people don't!
To weep and sigh because I'm blind,
I cannot, and I won't!

One time a preacher sympathetically remarked, "I think it is a great pity that the Master did not give you sight when He showered so many other gifts upon you." She replied quickly, "Do you know that if at birth I had been able to make one petition, it would have been that I should be born blind?" "Why?" asked the surprised clergyman. "Because when I get to heaven, the first face that shall ever gladden my sight will be that of my Savior!"

One of Crosby's hymns was so personal that for years she kept it to herself. ...One day at the Bible conference in Northfield, Massachusetts, Miss Crosby was asked by D. L. Moody to give a personal testimony. At first she hesitated, then quietly rose and said, 'There is one hymn I have written which has never been published. I call it my soul's poem. Sometimes when I am troubled, I repeat it to myself, for it brings comfort to my heart.' She then recited while many wept:

'Someday the silver cord will break,
and I no more as now shall sing;
but oh, the joy when I shall wake
within the palace of the King!
And I shall see Him face to face,
and tell the story--saved by grace!

Fanny Crosby 1820-1915 - <http://www.nyise.org/fanny/fcrosby.htm>

- I share that to say this; she, like Moses David, and many after them, came to the place where they knew satisfaction is found in heaven.
- There is coming a day, which I happen to believe is soon and very soon, when we will be in His presence satisfied in the fullness of joy.

Psalm 16:11 Thou wilt shew me the path of life: in thy presence is fullness of joy; at thy right hand there are pleasures for evermore. KJV

- Again, I believe that this is germane to our understanding, that we take this into our study of this next chapter here in Exodus 34.

1 And the LORD said to Moses, "Cut two tablets of stone like the first ones, and I will write on these tablets the words that were on the first tablets which you broke. 2 So be ready in the morning, and come up in the morning to Mount Sinai, and present yourself to Me there on the top of the mountain. 3 And no man shall come up with you, and let no man be seen throughout all the mountain; let neither flocks nor herds feed before that mountain." 4 So he cut two tablets of stone like the first ones. Then Moses rose early in the morning and went up Mount Sinai, as the LORD had commanded him; and he took in his hand the two tablets of stone.

- Moses will now bring two new tablets to replace the first set that were broken. Notice how God says; "the first tablets which 'you' broke."
- It's interesting to note that no man or animal could even so much as be seen on the Mt. Why? Because; Moses alone is the mediator.
- Also, it's early in the morning that he's to go up Mt. Sinai to meet God. I believe that having devotions in the morning is the best time.

"Note that Moses, like other good men, was up betimes in the morning. Matthew Henry says, 'the morning is as good a friend to the graces as it is to the muses.' God loves punctual servants."
Charles Spurgeon

5 Now the LORD descended in the cloud and stood with him there, and proclaimed the name of the LORD.⁶ And the LORD passed before him and proclaimed, "The LORD, the LORD God, merciful and gracious, longsuffering, and abounding in goodness and truth,^{7a} keeping mercy for thousands, forgiving iniquity and transgression and sin...

- The Lord answers Moses' prayer and makes His presence known in the cloud then shows Moses His glory, by showing His goodness.
- God is so good in that He's merciful, gracious, longsuffering, abounding in goodness and truth, forgiving iniquity, transgression and sin.
- I wanted to go through each and every one of these but decided instead to encourage you to do it in your devotion time with the Lord.

- Also, I would like to recommend a DVD for you to get a hold of. It's called; "The Heart of Texas." It is a documentary of a true story.

7b ...by no means clearing the guilty, visiting the iniquity of the fathers upon the children and the children's children to the third and the fourth generation."

- Once again we come to a very misunderstood verse of scripture that has led people down a path of confusion and even consternation.
- I'm sorry to say but I sort of blame the King James translation for this because they translated it to mean that God punishes the "guilty."
- These translations parenthetically insert the word "guilty," and in so doing gives birth to the false teaching of "Generational Curses."

Exodus 34:7b ...and that will by no means clear **(the guilty)**, visiting the iniquity of the fathers upon the children, and upon the children's children, upon the third and upon the fourth generation. **ASV**

- This one word changes the whole complexion of the meaning of this text and taken it completely out of the context of God's goodness.
- In the original text and its proper context it would read something like this; "I will by no means clear or erase that which I have spoken."

- Also, the Lord will visit the iniquity of future generations of the children of Israel if they continued on in the iniquity of their fathers.
- In other words, God won't judge/punish children for the sins of their fathers, rather, He will visit their iniquity if they sin as their fathers.

- I won't take the time in this study to prove from the scriptures that "Generational Curses" are not Biblical. We studied this in Exodus 20.
- If you are interested, you can download the audio teaching and notes from January 22nd, of this year, when we were in Exodus 20:4-7.
- We studied these verses in Exodus 34:6-7, Numbers 14:18-19, and Deuteronomy 5:8-10. These passages have led to that teaching.

8 So Moses made haste and bowed his head toward the earth, and worshiped.

- There's a powerful and profound truth in verse 8, and I'm afraid it could easily be missed at first glance: "Moses made haste" to worship.
- Here's what I'm thinking; God has just shown Moses His glory by showing Moses His goodness, and Moses is compelled to worship.

- A couple of Sunday's ago in our study of the book of Acts, we talked about how we have sort of got it backwards in our worship of God.
- We think that if we do a certain thing or be a certain way, that we will get God to respond to us by doing a certain thing a certain way.
- It's actually the other way around. When we see what God has done, and how good God has been to us, we then respond to Him.

- This is a perfect example of how this principle is demonstrated. Moses makes haste to worship God in response to what God has done.
- The book of Ephesians shows us how this works when in the first three chapters we read what God has done for us and been for us.
- Then, in the last three chapters of Ephesians we read what our response is and should be to what God has done and been for us.

- The most frustrating and difficult way to live the Christian life is to try, in our own strength, to be and do what God desires we be and do.
- However, when you see instead what God's already done and been in your stead, you, like Moses respond by making haste to worship.